

Arsenal employees get reprieve

A reprieve has been granted to 115 employees at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant while the Army studies proposed federal budget reductions.

"We have been told not to issue any layoff notices," said Ralph Miller, plant manager of Uniroyal Chemical Corp., which operates the plant. "Until we hear additionally from the Army, we are on hold. We have been told not to issue any layoff notices."

The Army planned to lay off the workers in an effort to trim \$3.8 million from the plant's \$13.6 million budget. A decision on the cutbacks is expected next week.

U.S. Rep. George O'Brien, R-Joliet, has attacked the Reagan administration for the cutbacks, and said he will vote against President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for the anti-communist guerrillas in Nicaragua. That request was expected to come up for a vote today in the House Appropriations Committee.

O'Brien has urged Under Secretary of the Army James Ambrose III to "give Joliet a fair shake."

He has complained that the planned reductions at the plant here exceed the 4.9 percent reductions in some areas of military spending that are expected to be made this month.

Some of the workers originally targeted for termination were recently hired, while others had been with Uniroyal for nearly 20 years.